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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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KILLED 11 ALLIGATORS ON REFUGE;
IS SENTENCED TO 3 MONTHS IN JAIL

Bernard J. Bures, a trapper from Plaquemines Parish, La., was sentenced to jail for 3 months for trespassing on the Delta National Wildlife Refuge and hunting for alligators, according to a Fish and Wildlife Service report received by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today.

The Louisiana trapper was arrested on the refuge at midnight and was found in possession of 11 freshly killed alligators, a .22 calibre rifle, and a 12-gauge shotgun. This is the first time in recent years that poachers have taken alligators on the Federal sanctuary.

The case was prosecuted in Federal Court in New Orleans by United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca. Sentence was passed by Judge Benjamin C. Dawkins.

Located on the Delta of the Mississippi River, the national wildlife refuge is a famous wintering resort of blue and snow geese. As many as 500,000 of these migratory waterfowl winter on the area at the same time. Alligators, deer, and other forms of wildlife are also found on the refuge.

Buras was arrested by Refuge Manager John Kilby, Capt. Theodore Johnson, and Curtis Pelas, who were making a patrol of the area by boat. Capt. Johnson was well-known throughout the Gulf States in the early part of the century as a crack market hunter of alligators and waterfowl. He stopped large-scale hunting when the first regulations placing a bag limit on waterfowl were passed.